

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: AORG, OCON

SUBJECT: UN ADMINISTRATION: COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES

SUBSTANTIVE MEETINGS

1. SUMMARY: THE COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES MET MAY 8-11 IN SUBSTANTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER A) UTILIZATION OF UN CONFERENCE RESOURCES AND B) CONTROL AND LIMITATION OF DOCUMENTATION. BASED UPON THE INFORMATION DISCUSSED DURING THE FOUR-DAY SESSION, DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE BEEN FORMULATED BY THE COMMITTEE. FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUES FOLLOWED BY FINAL ACTION ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE TAKEN AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING, TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO OCCUR MAY 16. END SUMMARY.

2. THE GENERAL TONE OF THE MEETING WAS SET MONDAY, MAY 8, WHEN IT BECAME CLEAR THAT FEW DELEGATIONS WERE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE AGENDA ITEMS, AND FURTHER, THAT KEY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE WOULD NOT ATTEND (I.E., HAHN OF CANADA, HANNAH OF NEW ZEALAND AND STUART OF UK) DUE EITHER TO PRIOR COMMITMENTS OR TO INTERVENING PRIORITIES. AS A RESULT, DISCUSSION WAS PARTICULARLY DESULTORY, THE INITIAL MEETING BEING ADJOURNED 45 MINUTES AFTER ITS START FOLLOWING A RELATIVELY SHORT STATEMENT BY FOKINE OF THE USSR.

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3. SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS PROVIDED SOMEWHAT OF AN IMPROVEMENT, THE ASSEMBLAGE COMING TO LIFE SPORADICALLY IN RESPONSE TO FORMAL STATEMENTS MADE BY THE US AND NEW ZEALAND AND, PARTICULARLY, TO AN IMPROMPTU STATEMENT MADE BY MME. DERRE (FRANCE) WHO SUGGESTED THAT THE INSTALLATION OF WORD PROCESSING CONSOLED MIGHT EXPOSE

CONSOLE OPERATORS TO HAZARDOUS, CARCINOGENIC RADIATION.
A DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL CANCER AND EYESTRAIN HAZARDS
TO STAFF ARISING FROM SECRETARIAT WORKING CONDITIONS
ENSUED.

4. THE COMMITTEE ALSO CONSIDERED IN SOME DETAIL THE
CONTENTS OF CONFERENCE PAPERS 65, 67 AND 69 (AND ADDENDA)
WHICH CONTAIN, AMONG OTHER THINGS, STATISTICS CONCERN-
ING THE VOLUME OF DOCUMENTATION, THE NUMBER OF MEETINGS
HELD IN THE MANY FIELDS OF UN ACTIVITY, AND THOSE MEET-
ING CANCELLATIONS WHICH HAVE OCCURRED DURING THE PAST
YEARS. IN ADDITION, THE SECRETARIAT FURNISHED SEVERAL
SPEAKERS WHO ATTEMPTED TO DESCRIBE CONFERENCE DOCUMEN-
TATION PROBLEMS AS VIEWED FROM ITS PARTICULAR PERSPECTIVE,
AND WHO WERE MADE AVAILABLE TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS AND
REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATION FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

5. AS A RESULT OF ITS DELIBERATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS,
12 DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS WERE DEVELOPED FOR POSSIBLE
PRESENTATION TO THE GA, AND WERE THE
OBJECT OF DEBATE AT THE COMMITTEE'S MAY 11 SESSION.
THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS PRIMARILY REFLECT THE SUGGESTIONS
CONTAINED IN THE STATEMENTS OF THE US DELEGATION
TRANSMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR CLEARANCE ON MAY 9
AND MAY 11. SINCE THE COMMITTEE OPERATES THROUGH
CONSENSUS, AND NO CONSENSUS WAS REACHED, IT WAS
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DECIDED TO POSTPONE THE FINAL DISCUSSION AND ADOPTION
OF THE DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS UNTIL THE DELEGATIONS HAD
BEEN GIVEN THE CHANCE TO RUMINATE FURTHER. DEFINITIVE
ACTION WILL THEREFORE NOT BE TAKEN UNTIL THE COMMITTEE
RECONVENES ON MAY 16. SHOULD DEPARTURES FROM ALREADY
AGREED UPON POSITIONS EMERGE, ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE
FROM THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE REQUESTED. YOUNG

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